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## MARGINAL COLUMN

By ARTHUR SAUL SUPRE

THE fact that the Russians were the first successfully to launch a space satellite would not have been so important had not the Americans fallen into the propaganda trap set for them by this carefully prepared and guarded secret. It is now becoming clear that to have followed the U.S.S.R. lead and to have rushed into the mad scramble of publicity, into an attempt to follow with a smaller, less elaborate, satellite was just what Moscow ordered and must have delighted their political experts beyond measure. What has been forgotten is what Vice-President Nixon reminded his countrymen on Sunday that the U.S. has not yet lost its scientific know-how, its ability to get things done. But this ability does not reside merely in the field of rocketry, space, and the argument should not be allowed to rest on that plane. A temporary setback in the production of satellites need not indicate the loss of the race for security through the development of the ultimate weapon. Indeed, sometimes there is a gain in being a little behind in fashioning a new weapon, for often the nation which starts somewhat later finds itself in the position of finishing with something much more up to date. But even this should not be the point of the argument. It is not who won the race, but who is winning the race to provide better living conditions for the masses of the people, especially in the underprivileged countries throughout the world.

THE largely neutralist Asian nations are said to be an important pawn in the contest of satellites. Because the Russians are first, these tend to favour the Eastern bloc. That may be true, but it is important to decide why they do so. Is it because they feel that the U.S.S.R. are the most likely victors in an inevitable world war, or is it that if no world conflict is to take place, the U.S. will have to give way to Russian influence by default because the position of the United States is being steadily eroded by which Russia has established a "new world order" that is a correct diagnosis, although Western, and particularly American, strategists are now feverishly shaping their policies on this hypothesis. One is more inclined to the view that the eager interest of the Asian and African peoples is caused by other considerations. These nations, who comprise the great majority of the ex-colonial peoples, are basically interested in one thing: to obtain very quickly, in their own lifetime, their share of the good things which they at present lack. They are not interested in the monopoly of the West. They believe, with a certain amount of justification, that these things can be provided for them by the West by science. Therefore they weigh two factors: Which bloc, East or West, is likely to get the know-how to them quickest, and which is best equipped to do so? The Sputnik made out a prima facie case, to them, for the superiority of Russian scientific attainment; while Russian anti-colonial propaganda convinces them that it is she who can be trusted to let them share most largely and handsomely in the benefits.

IT is in these factors that the failure of the U.S. propaganda is to be seen. But the failure is not only in the propaganda, it is in the fact that the U.S. provided that the U.S. particularly sections of the State Department, do not persist in their wrong-headedness. The U.S. even in the days of the Marshall plan, has spent literally billions in doing just what the Afro-Asian, and other underdeveloped nations want to be. The U.S. has brought massive technical aid to the under-privileged countries. While the U.S.S.R. contented itself with promises, it sent its dollars and its experts out into the field to work and raise standards of living. But side by side with this effort went the efforts and intrigues of the petty politicians who undid their work as they went along. For these men made it their business to support the oligarchies and reactionaries who kept their countries poor. They kept the accent firmly on war and the threat of war by entering into the competition to supply weapons. Now they are surprised that since they put the whole contest on this level they are outside in a field in which they should never have been. The U.S. should never in the past, and certainly should never in the future, slacken in a propaganda which reveals that the scientific know-how is not just expressed in the rapid production of satellites and guided missiles. The main object of science in the U.S. for a century was to supply an ever-rising standard of living for larger and larger masses of its inhabitants. That is what they should be telling the world instead of scrambling frantically and humbly in the wake of the U.S.S.R. in just one small sector of scientific achievement.

## Nuri and Fawzi Urge U.S. To Press Israel

WASHINGTON, Monday (INA). — Former Iraqi Premier Nuri el-Said and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi, both now in Washington, are reliably reported as urging the U.S. to take the initiative in the Arab-Israel dispute by pressing Israel to make concessions.

Fawzi, who met with Secretary of State Dulles, declined to disclose the subjects covered in their talks. But he was reliably reported to have suggested that America should demonstrate her professed friendship for the Arabs by taking the initiative to force concessions from Israel.

He is believed to have hinted that America may still have time to seize the initiative from Russia by a strong new U.S. approach to the question of Israel's boundaries and on the Arab refugee issue.

Later, the State Department press spokesman made the following oral statement on the meeting: "The Secretary received the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, this morning. The Secretary and the Egyptian Foreign Minister generally reviewed U.S.-Egyptian relations in their various aspects. The meeting was arranged because it was agreed that such an exchange of views would be mutually advantageous."

Arab diplomats have been hinting that Russia is preparing to organize a popular front by a sweeping campaign for a return to the 1947 Palestine partition boundaries.

This seems an emerging line favoured both by Arab states friendly to the West and those favouring the Soviet Union. A similar position was reportedly taken over the weekend-end by Nuri el-Said at meetings with top U.S. officials.

Nuri has already had interviews with Mr. Dulles, Under Secretary of State Arthur H. Hays Sulzberger, and Assistant Secretary of State William Rountree. He has also had talks with Middle East diplomats and U.S. officials.

"The New York Times" in an editorial today, urged that the Italian plan to extend Marshall Plan benefits to Middle East countries should be studied by the U.N.

Multitudes of people in the Arab world were poor and needlessly sick, it said. "If their standards of living and health one might say, standards of happiness could be raised no problem would be insoluble," it added.

## Bahadad Pact Moslem Members Meet Today

ISTANBUL, Monday (Reuters). — The Foreign Ministry today announced that the Baghdad Pact countries to-day called for urgent talks in Ankara before the Paris NATO meeting to discuss the situation in the Middle East and other countries.

## JORDAN JAILS 2 FOR INFILTRATING ISRAEL

"El-Jihad" reports from the City of Jerusalem that two Jordanians have been sentenced to a year's imprisonment by a Jordan Military Court, on charges of infiltrating into Israel.

Earlier in the day Iraq's Acting Foreign Minister, Ali Muntaz, arrived in Ankara for talks with the Turkish Prime Minister, M. Fethiye. Following the talks, which will also be attended by Persian and Pakistani representatives, Prime Minister Menderes will fly to Paris to participate in the NATO conference.

## Syrians to Boycott MAC Talks with Moe

JERUSALEM, Monday. — Towards the end of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission meeting held today at the police station of Mishmar Hayarden, the Syrian delegation announced that it would no longer cooperate with the M.A.C. Lt.-Col. Christiaan Moe.

The Syrians said they would not attend meetings at which he would preside.

Although the Syrians did not give their reasons for this attitude, it is assumed that it was motivated by Lt.-Col. Moe's views on the complaints of the Israeli delegation which were on today's agenda.

When the meeting was over, the M.A.C. Chairman returned to Damascus, his place of residence.

The meeting was called at Israel's request, and consisted of official and unofficial talks, which were conducted in a reasonable manner.

It opened at 11 a.m. and ended at 6.30 p.m. The three Israeli complaints on the agenda referred to the frontier incident on November 24, in which a settler of She'ar Yashuv was killed by Syrian fire, and incidents on November 25 and 26 in which a soldier was seriously wounded and an Israeli Arab kidnapped together with his flock.

As usual, the Syrians countered these complaints with some of their own, referring to alleged incidents on the same dates and charging Israel with responsibility for them. No vote was taken at the end of the discussions, as has been the practice at official meetings, nor were any draft resolutions presented. The meeting continued in an informal manner with a direct exchange of views between the Israeli and Syrian delegations.

The Israeli delegation included Mr. Yosef Tekoa, Director of Armistice Affairs at the Foreign Ministry; Rav-Seren Sivan Tepper, Chairman of the Israeli delegation; Sgan-Aluf Ya'acov Munbar; Seren-Ariel Segal and Segen-Mishne Levi Aharon, Advisers. On the Syrian side were Col. Tewfik Shattila, his deputy Captain Abdul Fatah Younis; and Mr. Y. Zakarya, the delegation's legal adviser.

U.N. Chairman Lt.-Col. Moe was accompanied by his deputy Lt. Col. Bertrand, his legal adviser M. Burget, and the U.N. press officer, Mr. Albert Grand.

## Syrians Off to USSR To Ratify Accord

DAMASCUS, Monday (Reuters). — A 19-member Syrian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Fawzi, is today to exchange documents ratifying the recent \$60m. economic cooperation agreement between Syria and the Soviet Union.

The delegation, led by the Finance Minister Khaled el-Azem, will probably discuss amending the payment conditions of the agreement, reliable sources said. This would bring them in line with those of the Soviet-Egyptian agreement under which Egypt pays back Soviet credits at a date yet to be fixed and each country would next year stage a festival of its films in the other.

The Egyptian Ministry of National Guidance will, in addition, offer collections of Egyptian books to Soviet libraries, while both sides have agreed to extend broadcast exchanges.

The Egyptian side noted "with pleasure" the interest shown by the Soviet Union in the teaching of Arabic Language and literature "and offered to help in this direction with teachers, books and publications."

## Talks in Cairo On Detention of Range

CAIRO, Monday (Reuters). — The South African Charge d'Affaires, Mr. A. T. W. Villiers, today called on the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sayed Fahmy, in connection with South Africa's efforts for the release of the vessel Range, detained at Port Said on suspicion of being an Israeli ship.

The Egyptian military authorities detained the 1,350-ton Range on November 23. An Egyptian spokesman said the captain was unable to produce his identification papers, and when his cabin was searched an Israeli flag was found.

The Range was formerly the Israeli vessel Kishon, which had been bought by a Durban company.

## Indonesia Takes Control of All Dutch Concerns

JAKARTA, Monday (Reuters). — Indonesia today took control of all Dutch and partly Dutch estates, agricultural enterprises and factories in a still mounting campaign for possession of West New Guinea which is under the Netherlands crown.

Dutch banks were taken over by the Army.

Workers with red armbands and national flags moved in on more Dutch firms, including Borsumij, one of the largest in the country. Only one of the "big five" Dutch mercantile firms in Jakarta, Landevis, remains untouched to date and was doing business as usual this morning.

Meanwhile, many Dutch residents packed their belongings ready to leave the islands where they have spent most of their lives.

## Kennan: West Must Avoid M-E Flareup

NEW YORK, Monday (INA). — "The New York Times" in a dispatch from London reports that Mr. George F. Kennan, former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow, has cautioned last night in a B.B.C. talk on the "non-European world," that Western policy should be dedicated to preventing the Middle East from leading to a world war. Mr. Kennan is at present lecturing at Oxford University.

"Our concern should surely be not to seek an answer to all Middle East problems by undertaking to involve in their solution the armed forces of great powers, but precisely to find ways by which this can be avoided," he said.

"Any entry of Russian or American forces into the Middle East, whether under U.N. auspices or not, will produce reactions elsewhere which it would be difficult to arouse. We must do everything we can to avoid hostilities in that part of the world. To this end let us seek to reconcile and unify where we cannot divide."

He continued: "But let us at the same time be careful not to place ourselves in a position where such hostilities as cannot be avoided would inevitably have to involve us all. Short of direct Soviet troops being thrown on the market to overcome the present supply difficulties and next year's imports would be cut."

The Indonesian PIA news agency reported that the Army authorities have placed the area around Bandung, a hub of the Indonesian economy, under a state of emergency following a series of explosions at an Army ammunition dump there during the night.

## Goldmann Agrees to B-G Request on Speeches

JERUSALEM, Monday (Reuters). — An exchange of views has taken place between Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and Dr. Goldmann, President of the World Zionist Organization, over political statements made in public by the latter.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, it is learned, said that he did not see eye to eye with Dr. Goldmann concerning his pronouncements on such subjects as neutralism and Israel's foreign policy. The W.Z.O. President replied that his views had been personal and they did not necessarily represent those of the W.Z.O. or a political party.

## New Japanese Envoy Presents Credentials

Japan's new Minister to Israel yesterday presented his credentials to the President at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem.

The Minister, Mr. Kunio Negishi, has served as Japanese Charge d'Affaires since August 1955. He replaced Mr. Shinichi Kamimura, the first Minister who was resident in Turkey.

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The Range was formerly the Israeli vessel Kishon, which had been bought by a Durban company.

## Tito Requests U.S. to Stop Military Aid

WASHINGTON, Monday (UP). — Yugoslavia has requested a halt to American military aid because of "irritants" created by the programme, U.S. officials said here today.

President Tito made the request at a meeting last week with U.S. Ambassador James W. Riddleberger. The U.S. has acceded to the request, and all military aid to Yugoslavia is being discontinued, the officials said. As a practical matter, the military aid programme had been more or less completed, anyway.

Tito said the receipt of American arms had produced "irritants" in Yugoslavia because of frequent U.S. "reappraisals" of aid to his government.

Officials here emphasized, however, that American economic aid to Yugoslavia, which has been running at about \$100m. a year, is continuing.

## Japanese Get Saudi Oil Concessions

TOKYO, Monday (Reuters). — A contract giving Japan oil concessions in Saudi Arabia was signed yesterday in the Cairo correspondence of the Japanese national news service Kyodo reported today.

The contract was signed by the Saudi Arabian Finance Minister, Sheikh Sarour el Sabhan, and Mr. Taro Yamashita, representing Japanese businessmen who have formed an Arabian oil company. The company's aim is to explore for oil fields in undersea areas between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The deal calls for a 50-50 per cent ratio division of profits, the higher percentage going to Saudi Arabia.

The Japanese side will pay an annual \$3m. fee to Saudi Arabia for leasehold rights and the joint company will establish its head office in Tokyo, the report said.

## France Mobilizes Dollar Holdings

PARIS, Monday (Reuters). — The Finance Ministry, in a bid to overcome its present dollar shortage, has ordered French banks to bring back a third of their dollar holdings from branches abroad. A Bank of France official said today.

The instructions, effective today, are contained in a circular issued by the Bank.

## Strijdman Cuts Duties On Doctor's Orders

PRETORIA, Monday (Reuters). — The South African Prime Minister, Mr. Johannes Strijdman, has cancelled his engagements for the rest of the year on medical advice. It was officially announced here today.

Mr. Strijdman, who is 64, had a mild attack of influenza last month but was later said to be recovering rapidly.

## Elath Sees Lloyd

LONDON, Monday. — Ambassador Eliyahu Elath of Israel today paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, following his return from Israel.

## B-G Meets Orthodox Leaders On Place of Religion in State

JERUSALEM, Monday (Reuters). — The first in what is expected to be a series of meetings with leaders of Orthodox parties on the place of religion in State affairs was convened yesterday by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in Jerusalem.

Those attending included Dr. Yosef Burg, Minister of Posts; Mr. Zerah Warhaftig, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Mr. Moshe Ussishkin, Deputy Minister of Education; and Mr. Israel Rosenberg, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare. The subjects being brought up include Sabbath observance, burials, and marriage among others. The discussion began at 4 p.m. and lasted nearly 4 1/2 hours.

Another meeting was held yesterday by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion with a committee consisting of Mr. Mordecai Bentov, Minister of Development (Mapam); Mr. Pinhas Rosen, Minister of Justice (Progressive); Mr. Israel Bar-Yehuda, Minister of Interior (Ahud Avoda); and Dr. Burg. The subject was not disclosed, but it is believed that it concerned matters that have been under periodic review in the past.

It is understood that the planned meeting on the internal affairs of the coalition has been postponed for the time being, while the Prime Minister continues to explore the situation with separate groups represented inside the coalition.

A mistaken impression has been created by leakages to party newspapers of Cabinet discussions that it was the left-wing Ministers who had taken the lead in pressing for a more liberal attitude in matters of personal status affecting non-observant persons. The subject was originally raised at Sunday's Cabinet meeting by the Prime Minister himself, who emphasized that his agreement that Orthodox requirements should be imposed on the entire population applied only with regard to marriage ceremonies in Israel, in order not to create a total split.

As regards all other matters it was essential that the left-wing Ministers who were to be found to assist the two sections of the population, observant and non-observant, to live together without coercion and without tension. His stand was also supported by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Golda Meir, and the other Mapai Ministers.

## 77 Hurt in Cyprus Riots As Debate Opens at UN

NIKOSIA, Monday (Reuters). — British troops opened fire on a rioting crowd at Akanthou village in north-east Cyprus today as demonstrations broke out in major Cyprus towns to coincide with the opening in New York of the U.N. debate on the future of the island.

Street battles were fought in Paphos, Famagusta and Limassol. Police used tear-gas and made baton charges to break up rioting teen-age students.

Disturbances also broke out in Kyrenia.

First reports said 77 persons were injured, including five girls and several members of the security forces. Arson, throughout the island, total well over 70.

The troops opened fire on the Akanthou crowd after gas had failed to disperse the rioters. There were no casualties there, it was officially announced.

Ten of the students, including two girls, were injured in the rioting in Paphos.

The riots came as Cyprus Greeks throughout the island announced a 24-hour strike to mark the opening of the U.N. debate.

## Ike's Doctors Rule Today on Paris Trip

GETTYSBURG, Monday (Reuters). — President Eisenhower's doctors will decide tomorrow after a checkup whether he is recovered sufficiently to attend next week's Paris NATO conference.

The Presidential Press Secretary, Mr. James Hagerty, told reporters today he assumed the doctors would make their decision immediately after examining the President tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Eisenhower, who is due to return to Washington later today after a week-end at his Gettysburg farm, was said to be having "greatly benefited" from his rest.

## U.S. and Britain In Defence Talks

LONDON, Monday. — The U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mr. Neil McElroy, held consultations with Minister of Defence Duncan Sandys and with Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd today in preparation for the NATO "summit" meeting opening in Paris on December 16.

The Defence Ministry has not yet confirmed a reported Anglo-U.S. agreement to station four intermediate-range missile squadrons in Britain, but according to informed sources here Mr. McElroy's mission will do much to bring an agreement. The U.S. is also seen likely to extend such missile deployment proposals to other NATO countries on a bilateral basis.

Military correspondents here emphasize America's need for continental bases to counterbalance Russian activity or imminent production of a 5,000-mile missile.

## Merger to be Asked

Inevitably, Britain will be asked to merge part of her naval and air forces with American squadrons to further the doctrine of interdependence. Newspapers ranging from the "Sunday Express" to the "Manchester Guardian" are already analyzing possible measures for military integration, but British opinion is naturally reluctant to whittle down national sovereignty.

Newspaper editorials here generally reflect the feeling of inadequate preparation for the "summit" meeting. The recent series of political setbacks, for example the failure to resolve the argument over the support costs of British forces in Germany following the clamour over the Tunisian arms supply, and the inglorious Vanguard satellite explosion, provide a unhappy prelude to the meeting.

## Press Competing

The popular press is competing in inventing derivative names such as "kaputnik," "phutnik" and "spoonnik" for the American satellite failure. Suspicion is also growing that the overpublicized NATO gathering might result merely in the reiteration of the overworked principles of collective security while the backstage dissension gets louder.

The application of the new attitudes regarding mass attack by the Assembly, a Russian attack will in any case receive private consideration in bilateral talks between Americans and the Europeans before the NATO military conference scheduled for March.

## Argentine Airliner Crash Claims 61

BUENOS AIRES, Monday (Reuters). — All hope has been abandoned for the 55 passengers and six crew members aboard an Argentine airliner which crashed in a storm about 320 kms from Buenos Aires last night. Aerolineas Argentinas announced today.

All 61 persons aboard the plane were believed to be Argentine citizens, but details of the crash are slow in filtering through because storms and floods have disrupted communications with the town of Bolivar, who were the first to reach the wreckage, reported no signs of life.

It is believed that the airliner, bound from Buenos Aires to Bariloche, tried to make an emergency landing in a hurricane-force storm which blanketed a large section of Buenos Aires Province.

## 15 Dead as Italian Train Hits Lorry

MILAN, Monday (Reuters). — The Milan-Rome Express was derailed tonight after crashing into a heavy lorry at a level crossing about 40 miles south of here. It was reported by Italian police.

First reports put the number of dead at 15, with about 50 injured.

## Talks Open on Direct UK-Russia Airline

LONDON, Monday (Reuters). — British and Russian officials today began talks on the proposed new direct air service between London and Moscow in which the Russian TU-104 jet airliner is likely to fly.

The talks at the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation are expected to last about 10 days. A Ministry spokesman said.



Aerobee rocket, at left, launched over New Mexico last month. The artificial meteors which are expected to hit the sun shortly. These are believed to be the first objects ever to escape the earth's gravitational field. On the right is a picture of the earth taken from an altitude of 125 miles by a camera in another Aerobee rocket.







## Today's Postbag

## The Weather

FORECAST: Isolated showers in the morning clearing during the day.

	A	B	C	D
Mt. Canaan	75	30	18	30
Tiberias	75	30	18	30
Haifa Port	75	30	18	30
Natanya	75	30	18	30
Tel Aviv Kirya	80	35	18	30
Tel Aviv Port	80	35	18	30
Lod Airport	80	35	18	30
Jerusalem	81	4	8	11
Beerseha	86	7	14	16
Sderot	86	7	14	16
Eilat	85	11	20	22

(A) Humidity at 9 p.m. (B) Minimum temp. (C) Maximum temp. (D) Maximum temp. expected today.

## ARRIVALS

Mr. J.C. Rodgers, British Conservative M.P., as guest of the Government for a fortnight's visit (by El Al).

Mrs. A. Gordon, of South Africa WIZO, (by El Al).

Abbot Leo A. Rudloff, O.S.B., Abbot of the Dominican Abbey on Mt. Zion, after a stay of several months in the U.S. and England, (by T.W.A.).

The Golden Quartet for a two week concert tour, (by K.L.M.).

**DEADLINE** for submission of entries for the Amos Tash Prize is January 15, 1958. The £1,000 award is for the best short story or essay on the subject: "Settlement and the Security of the State." Competition to be forwarded to the Tel Aviv Journalists' Association.

**PICA HAS GIVEN IL\$150,000** to the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture at Rehovot, the last of a long series of gifts which the University has received from this organization over the last 30 years.

**A NEW KUPAT HOLIM clinic** at the Ramat Gan West branch was opened yesterday for Abba Silver Road. The clinic has physical therapy equipment and a pharmacy in addition to the staff of three general practitioners and a children's doctor for the 5,500 local Kupat Holim members.

**SEVEN CAMELS** valued at IL\$10,000 were stolen on Sunday night from the El San'a Beduin tribe in the Negev by infiltrators from Jordan.

## Crews Leave for Turkey To Pick Up Trawlers

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**HAIFA, Monday.**—A crew of seven fishermen left for Turkey today to bring back two of the three trawlers which were seized off Iskenderun 18 months ago for allegedly fishing in Turkish territorial waters.

A Turkish court recently ordered the release of the three vessels, ruling that the charge had not been proved. The two trawlers, the *Neve Yachin* and *Natana*, are not in a fit state for sailing after her long lay-up and will first have to be overhauled.

The seven men, who are leaving aboard the trawler *Gal-Oz*, will join four other Israeli fishermen already in Iskenderun to take over the boats. The *Gal-Oz* will then continue normal fishing operations. The released trawlers are due back within a few days.

The fishing fleet left port for the high sea today after being laid up for a week by a storm which made trawling impossible. The men expect the usual bumper after-storm catches. One large vessel, the *Nitzana*, managed to cast her nets during the first day of the storm and returned with a big catch, which fetched high prices for lack of competition.

## Batya Maimon Laid to Rest

The funeral of Batya Maimon, wife of Rabbi Y. L. Maimon, the first Minister of Religious Affairs, took place yesterday in Jerusalem. She died on Saturday at the age of 77.

The coffin was accompanied to the Sanhedria Cemetery by a large group of mourners, including Cabinet Ministers and the Knesset Speaker. Rabbi Maimon took leave of the cortege at the entrance to his home. Cantor Bar Zakaria officiated at the graveside. (Him)

## THOMAS MCGRAIL

A memorial service for Thomas McGrail, former cultural attaché at the American Embassy, will be held in the Mann Auditorium lobby on Thursday, December 12, at 4:30 p.m. Some brief remarks will be made by Ambassador Lavon. All his friends are cordially invited.

We wish to express our sympathy to our colleague U. POLLAK in his sorrow on the untimely death of his SISTER

The Staff of Sonol Israel Ltd., Tel Aviv

We wish to express our gratitude to all those who gave us their sympathy in our great bereavement at the loss of my dear husband, our beloved father and brother

**NETANEL STERN**

who passed away on Shabbat, 7 Kislev 5718 (November 30, 1957)

The mourning family

## Prior Approval of Cartel Agreements Urged in House

**Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter**

Mr. Zalman Susayeff (General Zionist) objected in the Knesset yesterday to the "impression" created by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol that the Bill Against Restrictive Trade Practices which was presented last week for its first reading reflected the conclusions of the Cartel Committee which studied the question in 1954.

That committee was headed by Mr. Susayeff, who was then Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry. Yesterday, he "advised" Mr. Eshkol to withdraw the bill. The Knesset was continuing its 10-hour debate on the bill, but Speaker Yosef Sprinzak reminded the Members that he had the right to close the debate before that if none of the speakers registered were present.

Mr. Susayeff said that under the bill the Government could stop "five laundries in Ramat Gan" from reaching some agreement about prices or business policy, but when it came to something like the creation of a 100 per cent monopoly through the merger of Harza and Lapid (producers of ceramic and sanitary equipment), the bill's attitude was "Let's wait and see how it works out."

The Cartel Committee had recommended that any proposed merger be subject to prior examination to determine whether it was for the general good.

## Ignores Free Competition

The bill does not even mention free competition as one of its aims, nor does it forbid activities which interfere with free competition, Mr. Susayeff said. He said that some of the sections were so broadly formulated that "one manufacturer would be afraid to have a cup of coffee with another."

Mr. Akiva Govrin (Mapai) challenged the statement made by Dr. E. Avnery (Herut) that the private sector in 1956 employed 75 per cent of all production and marketing in the country. As far as persons employed in industry are concerned, Mr. Govrin said, the private sector in 1956 employed 75 per cent of the workers, the Histadrut sector 17 per cent and the Government, 8 per cent. In the future, the cooperative sector represents 20-25 per cent.

He also denied that Soli Boneh is a "closed economy" which does not deal with private firms.

Mr. H. Rubin (Mapam) said that it was unfair to turn the debate into a discussion about the private sector. Nor was the comprehensiveness of a cartel law any indication of its effectiveness.

He said there was no danger of vertical combinations in this country at present, and that bridge could be crossed when we came to it. Mr. Rubin proposed that no cartel agreement should go into force until it received approval of the Council set

## Agency Puts Off Debate On Mixed Marriages

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

The Jewish Agency Executive decided yesterday to postpone discussion on the questionnaires filled in by new immigrants until early next week when Mr. S. Z. Shragai, Head of the Immigration Department, returns from Europe, it is learned.

The specific point which some Executive Members want discussed is the section in the questionnaire which lists the religion of wives of incoming immigrants. (It will be recalled that Dr. Z. Warhaftig, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, told a press conference last week that it had been agreed between his Ministry and the Agency to clarify this point for purposes of clarifying personal status.)

A spokesman of the Agency's Immigration Department said yesterday that this question was included in the forms but that the policy was to be "very tactful" on this point. He explained that most Agency workers abroad did not ask immigrants directly about mixed marriage but tried to clarify this point in a roundabout way. Sometimes the question was simply left blank because the information could not be ascertained, he said.

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## No Solution Found To Kerosene Abuse

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

Opposition to the proposal that the Transport Ministry prohibit the use of kerosene in motor cars was raised by Mr. Moshe Carmel, Transport Minister, at a meeting with the Finance Minister, Mr. Levi Eshkol, yesterday. It was learned from reliable sources in Jerusalem.

The Interministerial Economic Committee decided on Sunday to refer the question for further study to the Transport and Finance Ministries. The two Ministers met yesterday and could not come to an agreement on the proper way to handle the question.

The Finance Minister is understood to have raised objection to the use of kerosene on the grounds that it has reduced fuel tax revenues by an estimated IL\$5m. annually. He also cited expert opinion that the use of kerosene increases depreciation costs of motor vehicles.

Mr. Carmel, on the other hand, objected to issuing the order under the Emergency Powers Regulations. It is understood that the Transport Ministry bases its indifference to the use of kerosene on expert advice which it interprets as saying that the use of kerosene does not harm to the motor-car.

It is understood that the Finance Ministry feels it cannot raise the price of kerosene because it would affect the cost-of-living index. A proposal being given serious consideration, however, is a ban on the sale of kerosene at commercial gas stations.

The matter will be brought before the Interministerial Economic Committee at its next meeting on Sunday for decision. If no solution can be reached at the committee level, the matter will be forwarded to the Government.

## 2,000 MORE FLU CASES

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

Reports of Asian flu incidence for the week ending last Sunday show an increase of some 2,000 over the week before, it was learned yesterday from the Ministry of Health.

A Ministry spokesman said there was no epidemiological significance in this fact since reports from the District Health Offices sometimes include cases from the week before and "anyway, this is the regular flu season."

Total flu incidence reported for the week ending Sunday was 12,489 as compared with 10,361 the week before.

## Schools Bring in Their Toys

Schools are reporting into all Toy Fund collecting stations with very large collections of used and new playthings. It is most important to get all these toys into our central distribution points in the next day or so, so that they can be sorted and ready for packing which starts on Wednesday morning.

Another carton of toys has arrived with a cheque for S.P.R. 60 (IL\$25) from the children of the Jewish School in Zurich. Mrs. N. Kapelner and Mrs. Jakobsohn have organized this campaign in Zurich.

While cash contribution of IL\$21,385 brought the total yesterday to IL\$703,185, we urgently need your donations right away for all the new things to be ordered. The first candle is just one week off, but the police vans move in five days.

Yesterday's contributors included:

- IL 67,500 - Haifa and Jerusalem Staffs of Palestine Eshkol Products Ltd.
- IL 5,100 - Hanna, Jerusalem.
- IL 5 - Leo Goldmark, Shavel Zion, N.A., Haifa, Herman Shushan, Tel Aviv, Mendel Truda, Mr. Kaufman, As ever, Snooky, Braude, Hans Mayer (71), Jerusalem, N.N., Herzliya-Pittsburgh, Dr. Steckenmacher, sen. and jun. Dr. Kurt Freimann, Ramat Hashivim.
- IL 4,120 - Irith Wellnermann (5 yrs.), Haifa.
- IL 4 - Gaertner, Ramat Hashivim.
- IL 3,250 - Nili Hohenberger, Haifa, Abraham and Micha Drucker, Jerusalem.
- IL 3 - Anon., Anon., Gideon and Yaffi Prokac, Benjamin Saut (71), Sokolov School, Herzliya-Pittsburgh, Jerusalem. In memory of Peter and Hanna Fischer, and Betty Feldmann. In memory of Mrs. Adele Weinhaus, Jerusalem, from her grandchild, Mrs. Tel Aviv, Susan Weitz, New York; Mrs. Hosh, Mrs. J. Froumkin, Mrs. Lerner, Steinhart, Mrs. Pulvermacher, Dr. Mannheim, S. Stern, Dr. Georg Gabriel, Schermann, Z. Gotsman, Julius Kahn, Hammer, Paula Kahn, Edmund Hollander, Mrs. Gerschlager, Siegfried Nebel, Ben Gal, Walter, Hanan Hashivim.
- IL 2,500 - Mrs. Freund, Ramat Hashivim.
- IL 2,250 - Rachel Kirshen (13), Tel Aviv.

## Sea Bathing In Eilat

**Jerusalem Post Staff**

Eilat basked in the sun at temperatures ranging up to 22 degrees yesterday while the rest of the country endured cold and cloudy skies, and, in part, rain.

For today the weatherman predicted isolated showers in the morning, clearing during the day.

Many holiday makers have come to the Red Sea port to enjoy the sunshine. The British Ambassador is in Eilat today whilst a party from the Swiss Legation is scheduled to visit the port next week. The Russian Ambassador, Mr. Abramov, left yesterday.

Half of Lydda menbers reported to be inundated and many more families had to be evacuated yesterday after four days of continual rain.

Haifa skies were cloudy only part of the time, with bright sunshine in the intervals. No rains were reported from the city.

The Haifa Municipality has set up flood control emergency stations at the City Engineer's Office (Tel. 6613), the Fire Brigade (Tel. 4631) and the Sanitation Dept. at 20 Rehov Herzliya (Tel. 2741).

Light rain fell in Beerseha and the Western Negev during the day.

Tel Aviv reported a lessening of the rainfall of the last few days with even a little sunshine.

Jerusalem was cold and threatening for most of the day, but rain fell only in scattered drops.

## NABLUS FLOOD CLAIMS 24 LIVES

Twenty-four passengers were drowned when floods engulfed a bus in the Nabulus area on Sunday night. Rescue workers saved the other 20 passengers aboard, Reuters reported from Amman.

## Citrus Export Drop Of 1 m. Cases Seen

**TEL AVIV, Monday.**—It is estimated that only 74 million cases of citrus fruit will be exported to Europe this year, a drop of approximately one million cases as compared with last year. Mr. Z. Izakson told a press conference called by the Citrus Marketing Board at Beit Sokolov this afternoon.

Exports of citrus fruit in citrus exports: Mr. Izakson, who has returned with other members of the Board from a visit to Europe, pointed out that the drop in exports of the system of inspection in Finland and Norway which had militated in favour of Israeli citrus.

The European market was also being more cautious and was holding back its orders in anticipation of a larger crop of S.P.R. 60 oranges. Mr. Izakson stated. He added, however, that all Israeli citrus would find a market.

## POST Gets Greetings From Abroad

The Kings Features Syndicate, an affiliate of the International News Service (INS) of the U.S., has sent its congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the paper through its Israel representative, Mr. Jaap Bar David.

From Paris, Mr. Charles H. Jordan, the Director-General of the Joint Distribution Committee, has cabled:

"On the occasion of your first anniversary of a central publication, the entire staff of the American Joint Distribution Committee joins me in extending a bright future to a bright future."

Mr. Tuvya Shamosov, writing in the Arabic daily published in Jaffa, "El Yom," said that the Post's founders and staff had laid the basis for the vantage of this landmark with considerable satisfaction. The journalist who feels that he had achieved his mission even in part can be happy. Even happier is that journalist who can pause in the middle of his journey and feel that the path he was followed, the one which he had chosen for himself and from which he had not deviated, is the right one."

## Natanya Council Convened Twice

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**NATANYA, Monday.**—The removal of Mr. Oved Ben-Ami from the position of Mayor is the sole item on the agenda of a Municipal Council meeting called by the new coalition for 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Another meeting of the Council half an hour earlier has however been called by Mr. Ben-Ami himself and the agenda of this meeting in the more prosaic question of "confirmation of loans and contracts."

It is learnt that Mr. Ben-Ami had called for a Council meeting after notifying Mr. David Dahari that his mandate was invalid. Mr. Ben-Ami's letter to Mr. Dahari stated that since Mr. Haim Meguri-Cohen M.K. (Herut) whose place Mr. Dahari then on the Herut list, assumed had not submitted a valid resignation from membership of the Council, he could not approve Mr. Dahari's mandate. He therefore invited Mr. Meguri-Cohen to attend tomorrow's meeting in place of Mr. Dahari.

## No Steinberg Case For Beerseha

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**BEERSHEBA, Monday.**—The Beerseha burial affair and the pending visit of Chief Rabbi Nissim were the subject of questions to the Mayor at last night's Municipality meeting.

Mr. Salame, a Mapam Councillor, brought up the question of burial in the middle of a financial debate, explaining that he had two non-Jewish daughters-in-law and would not like to have a repetition of the Steinberg case occurring in his family.

Mayor David Tuvyahu allayed the councillor's fears by stating that the Beerseha cemetery was municipal property.

## Police Detain Three Civilians In Haifa Port Smuggling Case

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**HAIFA, Monday.**—Three civilians arrested yesterday on charges of smuggling were today remanded in custody by Magistrate Dr. Y. Levy in connection with the smuggling ring broken up on Saturday. They are Yosef Gino, Martin Dasko, and Yitzhak Feig, all former members of the police force.

With the investigation continuing, the police believe that the ring leaders have not yet been caught. The five constables arrested on Saturday night are thought to have played only a minor role, that of bringing the goods from ship to shore. The cooperation between them and the seamen is believed to have been organized by several constables who had joined the Merchant Navy.

The police have been on the trail of the smuggling ring for about a year. As suspicion narrowed to the small police patrol boats which cruise about the port between ships and shore, the Haifa District Police set an ambush of hand-picked officers near the anchorage last Thursday night. By 9:30 p.m. a dimly lit patrol boat glided in and made fast. Two men got out, handed over the vessel to the next shift, and thinking they were unobserved, disembarked with three suitcases. These they hid near the anchorage. Detectives kept watch near the suitcases to see who would come to collect them. Nobody arrived by Saturday.

## The Israel Land Development Company Limited

Notice is hereby given that the

## FOURTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

of the above Company will be held at its offices, 18 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem, on Sunday, Dec. 29, 1957 at 11:30 a.m.

## AGENDA:

- 1) To confirm the Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1957, the Profit and Loss Account and the Reports of the Auditors and Directors.
- 2) To confirm the Directors' proposal to pay a dividend of 9% on the Founders' and Ordinary Shares of the Company against Coupon No. 5, subject to deduction of Income Tax.
- 3) To elect Directors.
- 4) To appoint Auditors and fix their fees.
- 5) Consideration of any other ordinary business that may be transacted at a general meeting.

## Life Sentences Asked For Accused in Kastner Case

**Jerusalem Post Bureau**

**TEL AVIV, Monday.**—The Prosecution asked the District Court today to pass life sentences on Yosef Menkes, Ze'ev Eckstein and Dan Shemer for their part in the murder of Dr. Israel Kastner last March.

In summing up the State's case, Mr. Ben Porat emphasized that while Menkes' moral responsibility was far greater than that of the other two accused, Eckstein's psychological disturbances do not diminish his responsibility, and Shemer, who may at the outset have tried to withdraw, in the end participated in the crime. Shemer's testimony that during the flight from the scene of the crime he had not known what had happened would seem to be more than naive, Mr. Ben Porat added.

No one could seriously accept Menkes' claim that "someone" had planted the revolver, found in the "Sulam" club next to his home, she said. The murder gun was of Russian Nagah make taken by Menkes from the Abu Kabir arms cache, she charged.

Both Eckstein and Eliahuvi had mentioned Dr. Y. Sheib (Editor of "Sulam") as a member of this group, and Dr. Sheib had himself admitted to membership of a terrorist organization when publishing propaganda favouring the Sarafand underground. "Even if Dr. Sheib does not sit in the dock in this trial, his articles in 'Sulam' could be produced as evidence of conspiracy," she said.

The agreement of a single member of an organization of this kind to a general conspiratorial plan was sufficient to make him guilty of the group's operations, and the responsibility of a conspirator was not reduced by direct instructions was not less than the one who had.

Menkes' Counsel, Mr. M. Kitzman, began his summing up by calling on the Court to acquit his client of charges of murder, or incitement to murder, and membership and leadership of a terrorist underground.

Mr. Kitzman charged the prosecution with employing any possible argument to convict his client. He asked:

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**Seven Months**

One of the men reportedly said that the operations had been going on for seven months, while others claimed that this was their first smuggling attempt.

District Police Commander Matityahu Sela today urged the press not to exaggerate the importance of the catch. "It was serious for the police because its good name was involved," he said.

The five constables arrested are Yosef Merimovitz, Gilbert and Moshe Abuharoun, Moshe Darwish and Edouard Moustaki, aged between 30 and 40, all married, with four to 10 years service behind them. Police Sergeant Yitzhak Rosenthal, their immediate superior, is suspected of having known of his men's actions.

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## Cables in Brief

**FIRE.**—A fire engulfed a small cottage near Paris, France, on Sunday, killing eight children ranging in age from one to 10 years.

**PAPERS.**—Paris morning newspapers yesterday called their price to 20 francs per copy, a boost of five francs, in accordance with a list of price rises approved by the government last week.

**TOURISTS.**—The official Soviet tourist agency, Intourist, reported on Sunday that more than 100,000 Soviet citizens visited capitalist countries in 1956.

**HIROSHIMA.**—A 70-year-old woman died in Hiroshima on Sunday night in what Japanese physicians termed the 37th fatality this year from effects of the atom bomb dropped on the city 12 years ago.

**THEATRE.**—Paris theatres were hit by a wave of strikes by stage hands on Sunday, when many of them, including the Folies Bergeres, cancelled performances and one put on its shows without scenery.

## TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

December 10, 1947.

## The Struggle for Independence

Britain is making an attempt to delay the arrival in Palestine of the United Nations Commission until May. Whitehall sources stated that Britain had asked the U.N. to send the Commission to Palestine on May 1, to prepare for the surrender of the Mandate on May 15. Two weeks is long enough for the Commission to be told where the keys and papers of the country are kept," they said.

Arabs killed two Jews and wounded several others in shooting attacks in Haifa. Arab casualties were two dead and several wounded.

## The General Tire &amp; Rubber Co. (Israel) Ltd.

## Notice

is hereby given to the members of the Company that THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on December 24, 1957, at 10 a.m. at the Company's office, 84 Rehov Yehuda Halevi, Tel Aviv.

- AGENDA:
1. Report of the Board of Directors
  2. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss A/C as per March 31, 1957
  3. Election of Auditors and Fixing of their fees
  4. Declaration of Dividends
  5. Sundries

Note: If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day of the following week, i.e. December 31, 1957, at the same time and place and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, members present shall constitute the quorum according to the Article 41 of the Articles of Association of the Company.

## THE DIRECTORS

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## Economic News from Abroad

**American Outlook**  
First indications of a changing economic outlook are appearing in the U.S. The consumer price index remained unchanged for the first time in 13 months in October and this will be the first time since March 1954 that the automobile

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TEL AVIV Bureau: 52 Nahlat Binyamin, P.O. Box 112, Tel. 421/2  
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Tuesday, December 16, 1957  
17 Kishlev 5718, 16 Jamad Al-Awwal 1377

**THE** recent controversy between the Governor of the Bank of Israel and the Knesset Finance Committee over the formulation of monetary policy highlights the growing awareness that development, production, home supply and similar targets, although they may appeal to the man in the street, are not enough to put our economy on a sound footing. In order to secure that end an inner equilibrium must be achieved by some rearrangement of the productive factors.

In the resolution it adopted, the Committee gave its blessing to measures of credit control intended to limit productive expansion to what is vital to the national economy, and stressed the necessity to reduce excessive personal incomes to a size that is compatible with the country's productive capacity. Inefficiency, though it may appear in this resolution represents a small victory for the official policy and a rebuff to the vested interests advocating a mixed bag of wage increases, subsidies, and development loans without heeding the destructive side effects of such a "progressive" policy.

Only a few years ago, becoming used to a continuous influx of unrequited funds from abroad and to a steady rise in domestic production far in advance of our rapidly increasing population, we could indulge in wrangling about the distribution of additional economic resources. However, the flow from abroad has already passed its peak, and the advance in home output is encountering increasing difficulties now that the easier conquests have been made in agriculture, further expansion is hemmed in by a shortage of water and fertile soils and bound up with rising costs. In industry, it is becoming increasingly dependent upon the highly competitive export market. In all fields, a high pitch of efficiency has become crucial, though it cannot be reached by any sort of cut.

Preliminary estimates indicate that in 1957 alone our national product increased by some 12 per cent, which is a good deal, but one may be excused for wondering whether the depreciation of worn and obsolescent productive assets has been fully taken into account in these calculations. In any case, money incomes have again risen at a somewhat more rapid pace, thus introducing a disturbing element without adding anything to our real resources.

Under these circumstances, a proclamation of adherence to the principle of sound money rejecting monetary expansion beyond what is warranted by real resources, is obviously of elementary prudence. But it is doubtful whether this is enough.

The conception underlying this approach is a neat distinction between personal incomes devoted entirely to consumption, and public revenue shouldering the financing of productive projects with business profits at best barely sufficient to cover interest and overheads. That may be fair enough as a picture of the true situation in this country, but cannot be accepted as a sound position.

Apart from other considerations, such a distinction relieves the private sector, i.e. both the employee and the manager, of responsibility for the supply of capital resources, and thus exempts him from taking an active interest in problems of efficiency, of profitability, of economies and of saving. On the other hand, it burdens the administration with a yoke that is beyond its capacities, for no amount of control can prevent waste where there is no incentive for the man who is directly concerned with economic activity.

Thus we witness the paradox that firms and private persons can afford excessive spending on inefficiency, luxuries and non-vital investments, and cover it by resorting to black-market loans at exorbitant rates of interest because they are lavishly financed by cheap credits; while the same policy of low interest and low dividends discourages the private saving that could become the most potent factor for improving our economic balance.

workers get no quarterly wage increase. Though economists feel it is premature to predict a fall in the cost of living, they believe that the end of the inflationary spiral is approaching. Accordingly, the Federal Reserve authorities have reduced the discount rate from 3 1/2 to 3 per cent. The widely expected increase in defence spending is also likely to prove somewhat higher than had originally been anticipated. Incidentally, interest rates on long-term loans have been reduced in Canada, too.

**New Atlantic Air Fares**  
The whole structure of North Atlantic air fares is likely to be changed in April following current negotiations for the introduction of a new, low-fare tourist class and the consolidation of the present first and deluxe classes into a single, more expensive first class. Earlier this year all companies flying this route agreed to introduce an emergency increase of five per cent to cover higher operation costs. But the American companies were unable to implement this decision because of a U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board veto, and as a result the other companies, too, retained the low rates though several are operating at a loss. The new fares structure is intended to comply with the C.A.B. demand that the air companies make both ends meet by attracting more traffic at lower rates, though with reduced accommodation, but at the same time securing additional income from the well-to-do.

**German Steel Expansion**  
The German steel industry is going to invest some \$850m. in the course of the next few years in increasing its output from 24.5m. tons in 1957 to 30 m. tons in 1960, not including the 3.5m. tons steel output of the Saar. This rapid expansion is accompanied by intensive technological progress and the introduction of new methods such as the Austrian oxygen process, the U.S. hydrogen process, fuel economy and the use of synthetic coke, and dimensions. Though raw material prices have been rising of late, so far they have been largely offset by profits on the sales abroad.

**SULITAN'S NEW PRODUCT**  
The Sulitan company, a subsidiary of Biltmore Rubber Company and of the Palestine Economic Corporation, reports a doubling of its sales proceeds in the past year. Exports to Cyprus, South Africa, Greece and Switzerland totalled about \$100,000. In addition to its Neolite soles and heels, the company recently put on the market a new model of synthetic Porokel crepe, which have proved a great success as they are 30 per cent more durable than crepe.

**500-Ton Press For Kaiser-Frazer**  
HAIFA, Monday. — A 500-ton press, for stamping motor car body parts has been set up by the Kaiser-Frazer Corp. on the construction of a plant here. It weighs 100 tons and is seven metres high. A second press with a force of 1,000 tons is now being built for Kaiser-Frazer by the same company in England and is due next June. The two presses will supply all the body parts for the company's new car, the Kaiser-Frazer, which is being set up adjoining the present works, and construction is to begin next week.

**TOO MANY APPLES**  
By Our Economic Correspondent  
How many apples can Israel eat? The housewife will answer that this depends on the price. The fruit marketing expert extends gloomy prospects. The apple planters do not care. They know well that a good number of people made IL 3,000 per dunam on apples last year, they go on planting furiously and they turn a deaf ear to all the warnings of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Centre of the Ministry and the Jewish Agency.

The Ministry has made a survey of our future fruit basket, trying to figure out what plantings of fruit should still be encouraged and which varieties have reached saturation point. Apples already have. In 1957 we picked 5,200 tons of apples and pears but within four years, 20,000 dunams of new orchards will be bearing fruit.

The Planning Centre can deny credit to villagers who are too enthusiastic about planting, but otherwise it is powerless, and settlements that have observed the phenomenal returns that apple orchards yield at present have been willing to pay 25 and 30 per cent interest on loans enabling them to go on planting. In the Haifa region alone, where 2,000 dunams of apples were planted 7,000 were planted. In 1960 we shall have up to 30,000 dunams under apples, twice as many as planned. The result must be a slump. Unbelievable though it may sound, apple planters in kibbutzim, moshavim and middle-class settlements pay no attention to this obvious argument. They claim that they will keep prices up by diverting surplus to canning factories, making apple sauce, apple sauce and what-not. They are not disturbed by the fact that experienced canners dismiss their calculations with a shrug of the shoulder. They pay no attention either to the hawkers who are already selling cartloads of apples at a pound a dozen.

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## Financial Spring Cleaning for F & C

By YA'ACOV ARDON

**THE** Finance Ministry spokesman last week announced the conversion of loans granted to Fertilizers and Chemicals in the amount of IL 12m. into preference shares, reducing the company's indebtedness to the Government from IL 22m. to IL 10m. Furthermore, the Ministry has agreed to transfer to the company two plants (phosphoric acid and phosphate salts) to the company at a price of IL 4m. against additional shares in that amount.

All further Government investments in Fertilizers and Chemicals are to be made in loans and share capital in equal parts, the spokesman added. The purpose of these steps, he explained, was to improve the financial structure of the enterprise in which IL 38m. had been invested by March 31 this year.

Business has been good lately for F & C: production has expanded considerably and sales in the first half of the current financial year, ended IL 30m. over the IL 25m. grossed during the corresponding period in the previous year. It has even been possible to pay shareholders a dividend of four per cent for 1956/57 — the first in the company's history.

The somewhat summary statement on the financial affairs of one of the country's largest industrial enterprises in which the Government, we are informed, has invested IL 22m. still has not made the situation clear.

F & C was founded 10 years ago by private investors who provided it in the first few years of operations with just over IL 2m. of share capital at a time when the Israel point was worth more and exchanged for fewer dollars than it does today. It is probably no exaggeration to say that their investment, commensurate with the official exchange rate of today, is equivalent to between IL 6-7m. What is not reflected in this calculation is that these private investors risked their capital at a time when the commercial and technical success of a large chemical enterprise in a country without previous experience in industry of this type, was by no means certain as it is today; and at a time when they saw ahead of them profitless years spent on the construction, commissioning and running in of rather complex plant. One must add to this the fact that in a basic industry of this kind profits are usually very low, and in comparison with the rewards that can be expected from less highly capitalized industries. The investors set out to provide the country with production facilities for the fertilizers which its farms needed, and it must be a source of satisfaction to them

that this target has now been reached.

**Demand for Fertilizers**  
After 1948, when immigrants poured into the country by the hundreds of thousands, agriculture had more mouths to feed every year and the demand for fertilizers shot up so fast that the Government advanced large amounts of development capital to F & C to finance the purchase and erection of new plant and expand production capacity with the least possible delay.

This phase of non-stop growth is not yet over, but a stage has already been reached where no foreign exchange need be spent any longer on a primary material. In F & C the country has today the facilities for supplying almost entirely from local raw materials, all its needs for fertilizers. There is something to be proud of in the fact that this was achieved in six or seven years, and against many odds in supply, manpower and engineering power.

However, the company has emerged from its rapid development with its finances weighed down by an unhealthy disequilibrium between loan and share capital. Between IL 25-30m. in loans has been advanced by the Government, and private sources at varying rates of interest, with repayment terms relatively short. This has driven up fixed charges, production costs and prices. There is no doubt that the Government, by turning shareholder instead of staying creditor, has taken the first step in the right direction. Now that it owns IL 12m. of the company, it has got rid to some extent of the high cost of servicing expensive short term loans, combined with rising sales and diminishing overheads. F & C's finances have become far healthier. The news of a four per cent dividend for 1956/57 confirms this.

The question arises whether enough has been done to reconstruct the company's finances and whether the reconstruction is complete. The answer is that it is not yet complete. The company's financial structure is still not sound. The Government, by turning shareholder instead of staying creditor, has taken the first step in the right direction. Now that it owns IL 12m. of the company, it has got rid to some extent of the high cost of servicing expensive short term loans, combined with rising sales and diminishing overheads. F & C's finances have become far healthier. The news of a four per cent dividend for 1956/57 confirms this.

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By Our Economic Correspondent  
How many apples can Israel eat? The housewife will answer that this depends on the price. The fruit marketing expert extends gloomy prospects. The apple planters do not care. They know well that a good number of people made IL 3,000 per dunam on apples last year, they go on planting furiously and they turn a deaf ear to all the warnings of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Centre of the Ministry and the Jewish Agency.

The Ministry has made a survey of our future fruit basket, trying to figure out what plantings of fruit should still be encouraged and which varieties have reached saturation point. Apples already have. In 1957 we picked 5,200 tons of apples and pears but within four years, 20,000 dunams of new orchards will be bearing fruit.

The Planning Centre can deny credit to villagers who are too enthusiastic about planting, but otherwise it is powerless, and settlements that have observed the phenomenal returns that apple orchards yield at present have been willing to pay 25 and 30 per cent interest on loans enabling them to go on planting. In the Haifa region alone, where 2,000 dunams of apples were planted 7,000 were planted. In 1960 we shall have up to 30,000 dunams under apples, twice as many as planned. The result must be a slump. Unbelievable though it may sound, apple planters in kibbutzim, moshavim and middle-class settlements pay no attention to this obvious argument. They claim that they will keep prices up by diverting surplus to canning factories, making apple sauce, apple sauce and what-not. They are not disturbed by the fact that experienced canners dismiss their calculations with a shrug of the shoulder. They pay no attention either to the hawkers who are already selling cartloads of apples at a pound a dozen.

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form must not go further still.

**What are the Government's plans?** A few weeks ago Mr. Eshkol stated that he was willing to offer for sale to private investors the Government's holdings in F & C and other enterprises in which public funds have been sunk on a substantial scale. In the light of this policy statement (which in effect means the abandonment of long-held and cherished views) the acquisition of IL 12m. worth of preference shares raises new questions. Why preference shares? Will it be easier to find buyers for stock without voting rights and a fixed dividend of five or six per cent a year than for ordinary shares? Or is there a prospect of a buyer for whom the IL 8m. parcel of preferred stock has been made to measure?

But more important still: are founders and holders of the original ordinary shares to receive dividends at the same rate as those of the newly created shares, as if the pounds of then and today are equal units? Or is it intended to re-value the ordinary shares? Will their holders have an option on the new stock?

Nothing is said in the Finance Ministry statement concerning the remaining IL 4m. of Government loans to F & C about whether they are to be consolidated, at what rate of interest, or when they become due for repayment.

**Subsidies Figure in Tnuva Proceeds**

**TNUVA's** proceeds on the home market amounted to IL 159m. in 1956/57, IL 22m. more than the year before. Processed products accounted for IL 17m. of it. In addition Tnuva realized IL 2m. in joint companies and IL 19m. in exports. However, included in the total proceeds are IL 20m. of subsidies paid through the Ministry of Agriculture to agricultural producers (besides subsidies paid for cotton, groundnuts and canned vegetables). Of this, IL 13m. was paid to young agricultural settlements. Some 40 per cent of the total amount of subsidies went to milk and another 42 per cent to vegetables. The balance of the latter amount being distributed to young settlements. Subsidies made up 22 per cent of the wholesale price of milk and 7.5 per cent of the price of eggs, 16 per cent of the price of potatoes, 20 of grapes, 21 of bananas. These were, however, annual averages; in some cases (e.g. for grapes and bananas in June and for tomatoes and carrots in September) the subsidy accounted for as much as 70 per cent of the market price. Farmers are, however, becoming increasingly opposed to subsidies coupled with controlled prices. They are pocketed by distributors, they claim, while the public is vexed by the enormous black market practices which thus eventually affect consumption.

**Egg Production Rising**

**EGG** deliveries have been rising since the Government's agreement with the poultry industry. In October they reached 44m., as compared with 39.4m. the same month a year ago, and in November they stood at 45m., compared with 42.2m. The November sales also amounted to 45m., but this included 4m. imported eggs, which on equal quantities of domestic eggs were exported.

The change has been most noticeable in the hatcheries. In September deliveries of hatching eggs totalled 33,000 against 7,000 in the corresponding month of 1956, and the figures for the following months show a similar rise. The number of chicks hatched has doubled, and a higher proportion of chicks are being raised for egg production.

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## Hula Authority Raising Crops

**DESPITE** the Hula's obstinate refusal to yield entirely to the drainage project, a considerable part of the reclaimed area has already been put to agricultural use. Of the 41,000 dunams drained, some 2,000 are to remain as a wildlife reserve and 9,000 have been allocated to the existing settlements, which have already farmed some of the land, achieving excellent yields.

The remaining 30,000 dunams, which include the heaviest soils and the Hula Lake proper (some 13,500 dunams of which 2,000 will be added to the wildlife reserve) were transferred to a special Hula Development Authority in which the Government invested 50 per cent, the Jewish Agency 30 per cent and the Jewish National Fund 20 per cent. Of this land, 14,000 dunams are already under cultivation and another 4,000 are ready for it. Most of this area is peat soil which requires relatively high investment for irrigation.

On the average, reclamation and improvement, including the destruction of marsh reeds and other wild plants, has cost over IL 100 per dunam. The Authority has also spent some IL 2m. on farm buildings, machinery, and various implements. Over half of the acreage is under fodder (maize and sorghum), while other crops are groundnuts, cotton, potatoes, sugar beet, rice and flower bulbs. The Authority hopes to make a net profit of about IL 140,000 this year.

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## Stocks and Commodities

**Prices Easier in Tel Aviv**

**PRICES** were generally easier on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange during the past week, with very few exceptions. Both C-o-L-linked and dollar-linked bond prices went down on not very considerable offers. It appears that as long as the linked Housing Loan bonds can be had much under par, there can hardly be a recovery in this section. The impending issue of the second series of six per cent Keren Hayesod bonds exerts a further depressing effect on the market. It also appears that the recent regulations according to which Provident Funds are permitted to make their investments only out of new flotations deprive the Stock Exchange of a very important investor.

An exception to the trend were Tavei Dollar, more than one point higher than last week and almost back to where they were at the end of last month, before they went ex coupon. In the investment companies section, conditions were steady and the prices of A.P.B. and Gazit settled after the recent fluctuations. It was announced recently that these two Bank

**New York Down on Rocket Explosion**  
THE news that the Vanguard rocket had exploded brought a burst of selling concentrated on the recently strong aircraft, missile and so-called miracle-fuel shares. Losses ranged up to one point or so, but the pressure of offering was not sustained and quotations stabilized later. On the other hand, there was some encouraging news such as the disclosure that the Federal Reserve authorities had expanded credit possibilities and that Christmas trade would equal last year's record if not surpass it.

**London Markets Steady**  
STEADY conditions were reported on the London market, assisted by a number of good company statements, but business was still restricted by such factors as the Bank Rate inquiry. In foreign exchange, the pound was steady at 4.75, and the dollar at 1.29.

**Gold Firm in Paris**  
Napoleon at 475.230, only slightly under the peak of two weeks ago. The unofficial rate for the U.S. was 475.496, and for the Swiss 1.290.

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## Tel Aviv Stock Market

DECEMBER 9, 1957

Pop. Loan 1949-50 (IL 30)	901
6% Comp. Loan 56/57	773
10% Comp. Loan	82
10% War Loan 54-59	96
Pal. Bezer Bds. Ser. 3	96
10% Tavei Dollar 1	90
10% Beze Sterling "A"	96
Det. Loan Bonds 56/57	961
10% Det. Bonds 1	961
10% Det. Bonds 2	961
10% Det. Bonds 3	961
10% Det. Bonds 4	961
10% Det. Bonds 5	961
10% Det. Bonds 6	961
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10% Det. Bonds 85	96